



St. Mary's School, 1995

**A History of
Winkfield St. Mary's
C. E. Primary School
1895-1995
(and before)**

**Compiled by
David Bazely**

— A CHILD —

*If a child lives with criticism
he learns to condemn*

*If a child lives with hostility
he learns to fight*

*If a child lives with ridicule
he learns to be shy*

*But if a child lives with encouragement
he learns confidence*

*If a child lives with tolerance
he learns to be patient*

*If a child lives with praise
he learns to appreciate*

*If a child lives with fairness
he learns justice*

*If a child lives with security
he learns to have faith*

*If a child lives with acceptance and friendship
he learns to find love in the world*



1895

OUR SCHOOL

1995

Foreword

Winkfield Parish is unusual in having contained one of the oldest schools in Berkshire, founded by Richard Jones, 1st Earl of Ranelagh (who laid out the famous Ranelagh Gardens in London), in 1709. The school was called The Ranelagh School Foundation, known locally as the Green School, and the bequest is recorded on the large Charity Board at the back of St. Mary's Church.

This school was housed in Cranbourne Hall, Drift Road. The house is still there, now divided into flats. The juniors moved to Lovell Road in 1880- the present Cranbourne County Primary School- while the seniors were rehoused in Ranelagh School, Bracknell in 1906.

But in the 1830's reform was in the air, and Winkfield's Industrial School for boys, together with the Master's house, was built in 1839. It remains as The Old School House, down a long drive to the East of St. Mary's Church. Evening classes were also held there. Some of the historic parish charities (How, Winder and Rowley) were used to support the new school.

In 1871 the Winkfield Row site was given in trust by Charles Cotton Ferrard, and an Infants School was opened. More land was added in 1896, when the three departments then united under one roof and later renamed The Winkfield Voluntary School, i.e. independent of the School Boards (set up in 1870). The list of donors is headed by the Queen (£10), and the Vicar of the time, John Daubeny, (£100).

The intention of the founders was to ensure the teaching of the Church of England and to maintain links with the church. That is why the school is called St. Mary's Church of England School, and the governing body still includes foundation governors, i.e. representatives of the church. But the distance from the parish church was a problem (and still is!). So a small church was built, named St Mary the Less, on what is now King George V Playing Field, and served the parish and the school from 1896 to 1972, when the almost universal use of cars made it no longer necessary.

It is good that links between church and school are still strong, and that despite its awkward location St. Mary's Church is well used for school carol services, class visits, and the display of children's artwork from time to time.

Simon Baynes
Vicar, Winkfield Parish



St. Mary's Church

INTRODUCTION

I was appointed to Winkfield St. Mary's in January 1989 and my first impression of the school was one of warmth and friendliness. I believe that this characteristic has stayed with the school as it has grown over the last six years. This is the longest I have ever stayed in a school, testimony to how happy I have been here.

I began my teaching career in September 1969 at Battle Junior School in Reading, a school built in Victorian times like our own. Subsequently, I taught in Exeter, Plymouth, Ealing and Merton. In 1984 I returned to Berkshire as Deputy Headteacher at Crowthorne C. E. Primary School.

There have been more changes in education and indeed to our school in the last six years than most people can remember. A full National Curriculum of nine subjects has been introduced and changed twice, the school has become responsible for managing its own budget of more than a quarter of a million pounds annually, and both parents and governors have more say in how education is run.

As far as St. Mary's is concerned, it has grown by two classes and we have been lucky enough to appoint two additional teachers, Mrs Parr and Mr Allen, to join our experienced team. The dilapidated old temporary classrooms have been replaced by spacious new modules and the whole school has had a face-lift with new windows, carpet and paint.

My lasting memory of the past six years was when our superb new swimming pool was opened by Olympic Gold medallist David Wilkie, in the summer of 1993. Subsequently, our children went on to win the Bracknell School's Swimming Gala for the third year running.

My hope for the future is that our school will continue to thrive as an excellent "village school" in spite of the growth of new housing developments around us.

Jenny Fowler
Headteacher



Mrs Jenny Fowler, Headteacher

IN THE BEGINNING

Local historians have recorded that documents show that over the period 1834-39 the establishment of a school was to be made on land near St Mary's Church, this being called the Winkfield Industrial School. In 1839 under the School Sites Act, the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral conveyed land in North Field adjoining the churchyard, for the site of a National School.

Subsequently a schoolroom and Master's house were built thereon by subscription "that the premises might be used as a school for the education of poor children of the Parish in the principles of the Christian religion according to the doctrine and discipline of the United Church of England and Ireland". This became a boys' school.

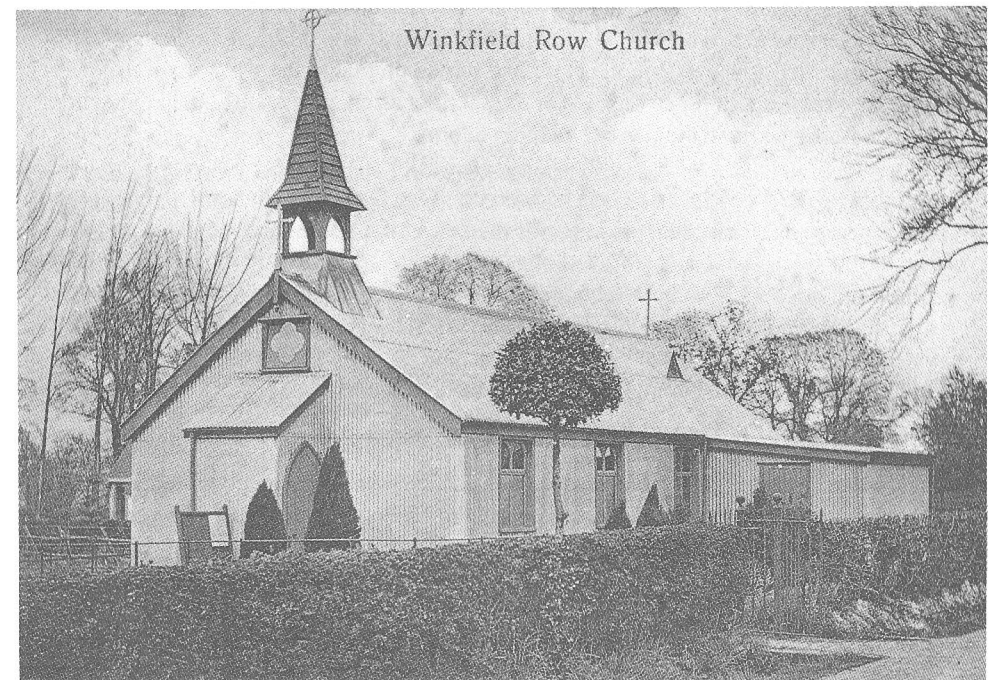


The Old School House, near St. Mary's Church

The Master and Mistress of the school were each to be paid £60 per annum. To accommodate the Master and Mistress a house was built at a cost of £368.11.10d. Two further rooms, a wash house for the Master and Mistress, a small porch and other items were added at a cost of approx £300.

It appears that at some time the school was closed as no further records are available until 1862 when a school was erected on land adjoining the boys' school, now known as Popels Hall, to house the girls and infants. However, due to pressure from Government inspectors, an infant school to be known as Winkfield Row Infants School, part of our present building, was opened in 1873. Later this was considerably enlarged and in 1895 all the schools were re-housed at its present site and the old premises closed.

On the 5th May 1896 the school was re-named The Winkfield Voluntary School. The first dual desks were supplied and the children attended services at St. Mary the Less, known as 'The Tin Tabernacle' (subsequently demolished as recently as 1972).



St. Mary the Less, known as "The Tin Tabernacle".

The main focus of education centred around religion and the children were expected to know and recite their catechism and be able to quote from both the Old and New Testaments.

Conditions were very poor due to a lack of ventilation, smoky chimneys and an environment which made it difficult for the staff to teach. Visits by the school inspectors were viewed with trepidation. Finger counting during examinations was frowned upon. For many years the school register was examined daily.

Needlework was popular and the girls would sometimes spend up to a full day on this subject 'if the light was good enough'.

Children often came from poor homes and lived in tied cottages on large estates where their parents worked. Some walked great distances to school from Hawthorne Hill, Moss End and Warfield. The records show that one morning in October 1874 the school was closed as not one child had turned up due to the wet weather. No car parking problems in those days! On another occasion that month, half the school were missing because they were 'picking acorns'!

October of 1874 continued to be a bad month. One boy was sent home to be washed and consequently returned, presumably cleaner, in the afternoon.

There did not appear to be a school starting age. One child was only three years of age. What would some mothers give today to hand over their children at that age?

In the early days each parent had to pay an admission fee of sixpence and a few pence each week for a child's education.

In the latter part of the 19th century, attendance was at times poor and so it was decided to give an award of 2/6d to every child who made 350 attendances and 5/- for 400 attendances. This seemed to improve appearances to such a degree that the School Committee decided to reduce the award to 1/6d and 2/6d to avoid bankruptcy.

Not surprisingly, attendances again dropped off. It was even reported that on one occasion a teacher absconded. When playing truant, the children would either be watching the soldiers on Ascot Heath or following the hunt. One boy was said to have been 'at home atatering', presumably meaning he was planting potatoes.

1873 Winkfield Row Infants School

On the 7th January 1873 the infants school was opened for the first time, the Head, (then being called the Mistress) being Miss R A Batchelor (Certified 1st Class). Admitted were 25 Scholars, 12 boys and 13 girls, five of whom knew their letters. Although the school log book appears to record only one member of staff, sometimes either Miss Elliott or Miss Thackeray took the first class for reading, indicating there may in fact have been more than one class. However, on the 5th May 1873 there was no school on account of the Mistress being absent through illness!

By May 1874, the records show that there were at least 3 classes, containing something in the region of 35 children. On the 13th May 1876 one boy was kept at home 'for want of shoes'.

In October of the same year it was reported that 'one girl had mastered the art of knitting, which had been difficult to her on account of her being left handed'. Later, one boy was withdrawn from school to work for his father and another aged 12 left to go to work. The Head wrote 'I gave him permission as he might earn, although he would not learn'.

On the 1st April 1889, School re-opened after a period of 3 weeks closed due to measles. Other schools have also recorded heavy absenteeism indicating a local epidemic. Records in the early days show that the weather was very poor at various times of the year, not only in winter, which kept attendances down on many occasions. As one would expect, illness was also a factor in poor attendances. Coal, coke and wood were delivered every 10 days or so for the boiler.

Royal celebrations seemed to attract holidays and subsequently days off were given in 1879 for the marriage of the Duke of Connaught at Windsor, in 1882 for the wedding of HRH Prince Leopold and in 1897 for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

On the 30 September 1895 the enlarged school as we know it was re-opened with Mr J C Tipper being the Head.

The boys used two rooms in the cottage adjoining, which we can only assume is the house behind the existing staff room.



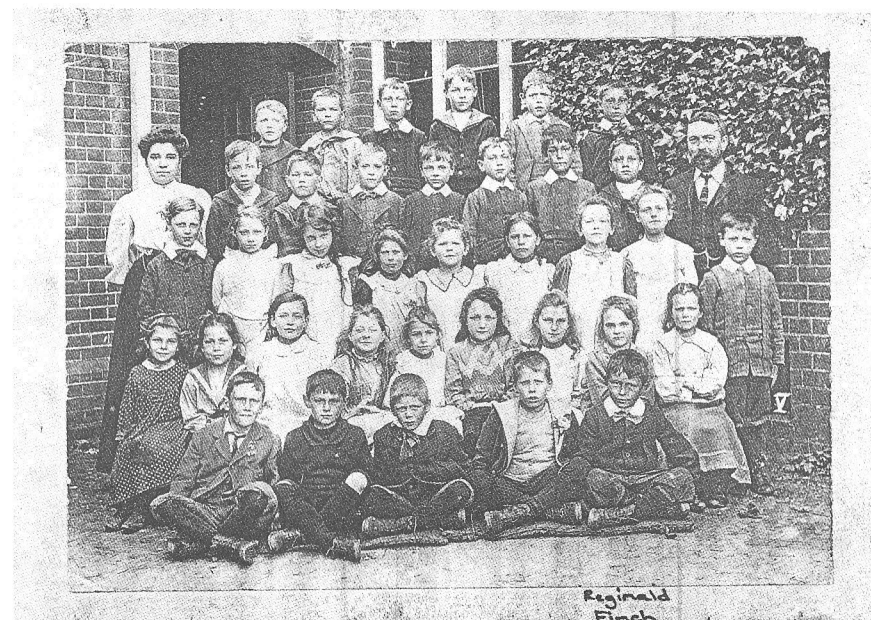
The Teaching Staff of 1995

Standing:-

*Mrs Nicola Parr, Mrs Jill Wooldridge, Mrs Sue Jeffery,
Mrs June Highams, Mrs Rachel Kompfner.*

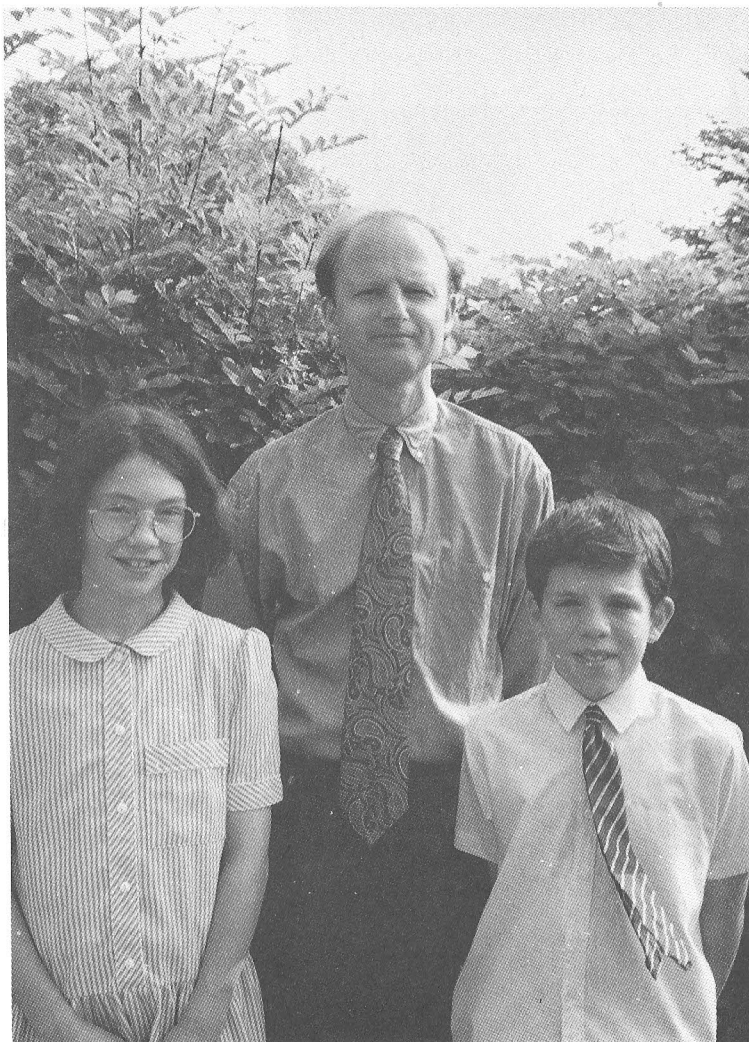
Seated:-

Mr Stuart Allen, Mrs Jenny Fowler, Mr Michael Dust.



Mr Tipper with Pupils

The total number of scholars is reported at 136 and the Bishops Prize for 1895, (now known as the Governors Prize), was awarded to Ethel Worsfold and Alf House.



Governors Prize Winners 1994
Anna Bazely and Robert Smith with Mr Dust

On the 5th May 1896, the school was renamed the Winkfield Voluntary School, Winkfield Row and in January 1898, swings and seesaws were fitted in the playground for girls and infants.

A NEW CENTURY

So far, some interesting events have been recorded in the school log books, but strangely, no mention was made at all in 1900 of a new century.

On the 23rd January 1901, the morning paper was read to the upper class giving the account of Queen Victoria's death the previous day. The following year a half day holiday was given in commemoration of the declaration of peace in Pretoria and in July the school was closed for its summer holidays with an extra week to count for "Coronation Holidays".

In the same year on the 16th December, the Trustees known as the "Committee" took over the management of the school due to the new Education Act. Presumably this was the commencement of today's Board of Governors.

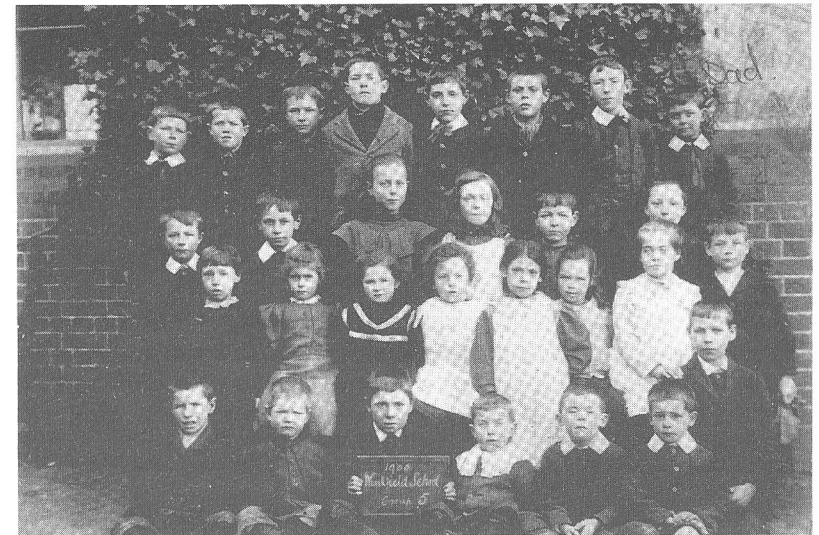


The Board of Governors

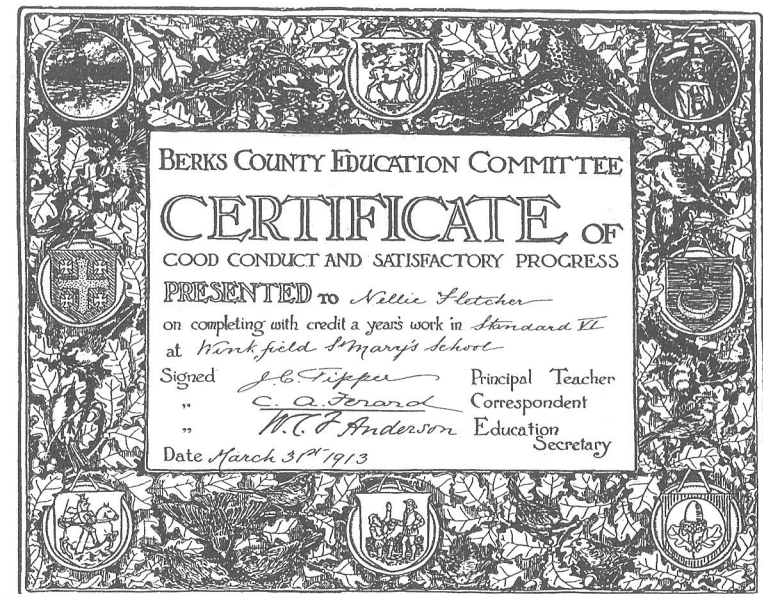
Standing:- Rev. Simon Baynes, Mr Peter Wooldridge, Mr Michael Colborn, Dr Ray Elliott, Mr Don Ingham, Mr David Bazely

Seated:- Mrs Jenny Fowler, Mrs Maggie Ferris, Mr Brian Cooley (Chairman), Mrs Irene Bidwell (Clerk to the Governors), Mrs Angela Michie.

Although no mention is made in the school records, in 1903 Violet Cox was awarded a certificate for Religious Knowledge and reproduced below is a copy of that beautiful document.



Class of 1905



Copy of a Certificate of Good Conduct and Satisfactory Progress awarded to Nellie Fletcher in March 1913

Winkfield St. Mary's C. E. Primary School

A significant event occurred on the 4th April 1906 when a notice from the "Committee" stated that the number of the school was to be 199 and the school was to be known as Winkfield St. Mary's C. E. School.

The first note of interest in the log book for this 'new school' was, on the 19th June 1906, "owing to the number of rough characters on the roads, parents are keeping the younger children at home this week." (A note for the governors to keep their heads down!).

Another Royal occasion closed the school on the 20th May 1910, this being the funeral of Edward VII at Windsor.

February 1911 was an eventful month, with the parents of three children being sent to prison for cruelty and Empire Day being celebrated with a bun for every child.

Entries in 1914, recorded the School was closed in the afternoon for Sunday School treat and 6 boys were absent due to acting as guard of honour at the funeral procession of Lord Roberts.

No significant records were made in reference to the Great War but on the 30th May 1919 a Roll of Honour recording the names of old boys fallen in the war was unveiled by Mrs Daubeney.

On the 11th November 1919, the 1st Armistice day was celebrated and a month later each child was given a victory medal.

For many years the school was closed during the Summer on account of Ascot races or for the local ploughing match and flower show.

During this period, Harry Cleverly attended the school and this is an extract from his story.

Harry Cleverly, Sidmouth Cottages, Brockhill, Bracknell (attended St. Mary's 1924-1933)

"Mr Kent was the headmaster but I cannot remember much about him, but I do remember Miss Harris who must have taken his place. The first time I saw her she rode into the school on a little belt driven Levis motor cycle and later had a second hand 1928 Morris Minor car in which she would take us to play football with other schools. She later had a 1943 Morris 8, sometime after I left school.

I was good at drawing flowers but mostly cars like the Bentley Lagonda and SS Jaguar and other makes of that time. The school inspectors saw the drawings when they came. My mother tried to get the drawings from the school but she (Miss Harris) would not let her have them and they were hung up on the wall for many years.

The other teacher was Miss Holmes, the infant teacher. She cycled all the way from Maidenhead and the middle teacher was Miss Lane from Wokingham.

I remember the airship R-100 passing very low over the school and I also remember the large poplar trees that lead up to the school from the White Horse being blown down in a very bad gale. She (Miss Harris) also made us stand very stiff for two minutes silence on the 11th November, Armistice day. At that time you saw many ex soldiers with shell shock.

The only car we saw, which came to the school to fetch children, was a Ford, maybe a model T, owned by Mr Sealey who kept the shop at Maidens Green.

Mr Borden of Cranbourne was the gentleman who came round to see that you were attending school and, if you were ill, he really understood.

In the cupboard by the porch of the building was an old World War I rifle with its firing mechanism removed, a lee Enfield. It fascinated me at that time- little did I know that in September 1939 I would be given one of the same for the next six years.

The large room at the far end of the building was a sort of old fashioned gym- wooden bars let into the panelled side walls that you could move up and down, a vaulting horse, ropes to climb up which came down from the ceiling. If this is the building that has reached its centenary, it was in my time at school never used as a class room.

Miss Harris wrote a book of the history of Winkfield including the church. Miss Harris lived as far as I know well into her nineties and was Headmistress for a long, long time".

In February 1927 the boiler broke down and the school closed. In March further problems arose and the boiler was declared unsafe. Consequently the education Secretary gave instructions for school to be carried on and that the children should receive 'a few extra physical exercises'.

The School is proud of its swimming record which dates back as far as 1937 when we recorded the first swimming activities, this being when senior children commenced a course of swimming instruction at Bracknell pool.

In 1938, main drainage was laid in January and in December, 9 inches of snow fell causing only 5 children to arrive at school.

1939-1945

Strangely, very little is mentioned about the second World War. On the 25 September 1939, school re-opened 20 days late after the summer holidays, (presumably due to the war), with a total of 16 children, which included 14 evacuated to the area.

On the 26th September 1940, 44 children were absent due to disturbance from an air raid. A number of bombs dropped in the area.

1947-1971

On the 3rd November 1947, Mr Charles Kaynes took charge of the school as Headmaster, a duty he was to hold until his retirement in 1971.

On a return visit to the school on the 16th January 1995 he is seen here with some of his successors



Mr Charles Kaynes, Mr Peter Brooks, Mrs Jenny Fowler, Mr Robert Taylor

Mr Charles Kaynes

Mr Kaynes was born in Malmesbury, Wiltshire in 1910 and spent his early school days in the locality until progressing to King Alfred's College, a teachers training school in Winchester. His first post as a teacher in 1931 at £2 per week, was at Holy Trinity School, Sunningdale, where he stayed until he was called to arms in 1940. During the early part of this period he was living in "digs" in Sunningdale, during which time he met his wife to be, Gwen. They married in the local church in 1934, and moved into their one and only home in Parkside Road immediately after the wedding. He left the forces at Christmas, 1945 after serving his country in Africa and Italy and rising to the rank of Captain, to become temporary head at the Royal School in Windsor Park before moving as a teacher to a Bracknell school, no longer in existence, Bulbrook School. From there he moved to St. Mary's as Headmaster.

Among the many improvements seen at St. Mary's during this period was the installation of electric light in the two main rooms, the raising of £12.1.7d at the 1948 Christmas fair, the formation in 1962 of the first "PTA" (known in those days as "Friends of St. Mary's") and the opening of the school's first swimming pool on the 7th July 1965 by John Tidmarsh of the BBC. As is the case today, all children left the school having learnt to swim.

Mr Kaynes is now in his 84th year but has a remarkable memory for detail. He can vividly remember all events of his lifetime as well as his happy days at St. Mary's. He recalls a boy called Derek Fletcher who joined the school at the age of five and when he left to start work at 15, he had never missed even a half days schooling in ten years.

Sadly, his wife Gwen died in June 1993 after 59 years of marriage but he has two sons and two granddaughters to keep him on his toes. He is also an active gardener, being President of the Sunningdale & District Garden Association and of the Sunningdale Allotment Holders Association as well as being a life member of the Ascot Horticultural Society.

Our grateful thanks to you Charles for your contribution to our history as well as 24 happy years for the children of this parish.



Mr Charles Kaynes at his retirement party with many of his pupils

The following events also occurred during Mr Kaynes' Headmastership.

On the 20th November 1947, the school was closed for the wedding of the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh and in 1948 a party of senior children were taken to Ascot to see the Olympic torch pass by.

On the 6th February 1952, news was received of the death of King George VI. The flag was flown at half mast and two days later the school assembled to hear the proclamation broadcast. A week later a party of 41 children went by coach to Windsor to see the King's funeral. The school sent a wreath costing 10/-. Each child donated a halfpenny.

1953 was of course Coronation year and Coronation beakers were presented to the children.

On the 9th April 1954 an event was held which could not take place today for obvious reasons. The senior boys took part in a cross country run via Braziers Lane to the Vicarage, then by footpath to Winkfield Row and back to the school. Only inches separated the winner, Ivor Beasley from John Wise, the former completing the course in the fast time of 19 minutes.

1956 was a sad year for the Head, although the log book entry requires explanation. The log simply quotes:-

"25th January 1956- Headmaster absent to attend his sister's funeral".

"28th March 1956- Headmaster absent to attend sister's funeral".

Mr Kaynes sadly recalled that two sisters died within months of each other.

On the 28th March 1962, a meeting of parents and friends took place to discuss the formation of a "Friends of St. Mary's School Association". This was effectively the first PTA and a month later they presented the school with a TV set (The instructions for which, are still with us).

In July 1963, one of the staff, Miss Lewis, retired after 29 years of service. She was presented with a gold watch and bracelet. School meals cost 12p.

The decade of the seventies was a turbulent period in the history of St. Mary's. There were many changes to teaching staff and methods, influenced to some extent by new theories and policies. This did not prevent it being a fertile period for many of the new pupils who started school at that time.

There were several who went on each year to higher education and academic success. Universities all over England and Wales saw former pupils keen to continue their education. At least three went on to post graduate doctoral study at Oxford, Cambridge and Middlesbrough.

Their appetites for music once whetted, many "Old Winkfieldians" have continued to enjoy it. They play in jazz bands, military bands on the Royal Yacht, and balalaika ensembles. Three of Mrs. Tonkinson's former guitar pupils still get together as a Russian ensemble from time to time.

This period saw a Winkfield St. Mary's cricket team playing at the Oval. Many of the players have gone on to play for Winkfield Cricket Club. Others have achieved sporting success in cycling, darts, football, hockey, judo and rugby. The school boasts U.K. representatives in competitive European equestrian and trampolining events, a European Medallist archer and a National Gold Medallist swimmer.

They are adventurous. Three members of one family, who all obtained good degrees, indulge in hang gliding, scuba diving and parachuting.

Winkfield students have travelled across the U.S. and back by motorcycle, hitch-hiked and motorcycled to Australia via Iran and Thailand and cycled the Alps and Pyrenees to see the Tour de France. They have flown to Paris, Dallas, Hong Kong and Taipei and gone by train to Berlin (before the wall came down), all in the course of their work, and volunteered for service overseas in Indonesia. Two intrepid former pupils raced around the highest peaks in the U.K. to raise money for one of them to take part in an Operation Raleigh Expedition to the Andes. One sailed across the North Sea during a violently stormy Easter holiday to gain her Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

Former pupils are to be found teaching, nursing and delivering babies both at home and overseas, and in many other professions. Some are rearing a new generation of children to be educated at St. Mary's, on occasions to be taught by an 'old girl'. What a decade it must have been!

We thank Ann James, whose children attended the school during this period, for this contribution. St. Mary's would like to hear from former pupils about their activities and achievements.

1974-1994

Other events of note include a party of 80 children and 30 adults taken by coach to see the Queen of the Netherlands, the first sex education for the children was shown on the TV programme "Merry go round", the school was closed for the Queen's Silver Wedding Anniversary, the school hall was used for the wedding of the vicar of the day and on the 2nd August 1974, our school secretary of today, Mrs Irene Bidwell was chosen from 13 applicants for the post of School Secretary. She commenced her duties on the 3rd Sept 1974. The following year, the school summer fete was opened by the QPR & England goalkeeper, Phil Parkes.

The senior class won the ICI competition for Primary Schools in the years 1991-93 and a new swimming pool was built in 1993.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

After nearly 30 years of continuous use, in 1991 the PTA committee decided it was time to think ahead and plan for a new swimming pool. This was inevitably going to be an enormous task as the cost of pools was out of reach of most schools, but the PTA were determined to reach their goal as quickly as possible. After all, since 1965 it had been the tradition of St. Mary's to teach all of its children to swim long before moving on to senior school. Parents were duly informed of this major and exciting adventure and extra efforts were made to extract funds from new sources. New ideas including sponsorship of the 1st Prize in the Grand Draw at our Summer and Christmas Fairs and encouraging local businessmen to advertise in our programmes were successful. Over the next couple of years as the funds built up steadily, particularly with a generous donation of £12,000 from the Sports Foundation, a wave of excitement swept through the school. Cost estimates were obtained and plans drawn up. With the funds now in place, including a donation of £3,000 from school funds approved by the school governors, the old pool was finally dispatched and a new hole in the ground appeared. Gradually everything took shape and after weeks of hard work, the contractors completed our magnificent new pool. There was only one thing left to do, have a grand opening. Olympic swimming Gold Medallist, David Wilkie, was invited to christen the pool with a big splash, which he duly followed by an exhibition of swimming and the Mayor of Bracknell formally opened the pool in September 1993.





ICI '93

29th March 1993

The night before the ICI competition I read through all the information Mr Dust gave us. I got my mum to read it and test me. I did fine but was still nervous. My sister tried to calm me down. Then I went to sleep.

30th September 1993

I got to school having butterflies in my stomach but I managed to calm myself down. First Emergency, Robert's model wasn't finished so I had to help him make some flaps, then I had to re-do some signs. After that we started to put things in boxes and put the book into a black bag. Then we loaded Mr Dust's and Mrs Coneron's cars. James, John and I went in Mrs Fowler's car and Jessica, Anna and Katie went in Mr Dust's car. When we got there I was astonished at the size of the building for I thought it was a large hall just like our hall but a bit bigger. When we unloaded the cars we took our displays up to the committee room where lots of other schools had already put up their displays so we thought we wouldn't have enough time to set up our displays but we did. When the judges came round they were very friendly. There were two children to a judge and we all did brilliantly well. John and I had a male judge, he asked us things like how do pulleys work? and how many people in your class? Did you enjoy the work? But usually you had to show him everything. After we were tested we left our display and Mr Dust showed us around a section of Shire Hall that we were in. We then went upstairs and we were told to either make a rocket or a space buggy, we had a vote which I lost, so we read the information given to us and began making a buggy. After we had made the buggy we had our lunch which I quite enjoyed. Then we went downstairs to see how many rosettes we had got but we had to wait five minutes, which was nerve racking but finally the judges came round. First they asked us if we were good enough to get one rosette we said yes. Then they asked us if we were good enough to get two rosettes. We said yes again. They said the same for the third and fourth rosette (I saw before we had four rosettes). The rosettes were for scientific skills, objectives met, innovative skills and communication skills. After everyone got their rosettes, we went back down where we got awarded prizes after some long boring speeches but finally we got awarded our prizes in reverse order. In joint 3rd position were Owlsmoor and Embrook jnr, 2nd was Warfield and 1st was us, St. Mary's. When they called us I felt like shouting WHOOPEE!!! Mrs Fowler did. We went up and had our photographs taken with the Chief Education Officer, who gave out the prizes. Then we dismantled our display, dad and I took the mini stands that the school brought and we took them back to school the next day.

Femi Johnson



ICI Winners 1993

*Anna Bazely, John Finnieston, Katie Sprague,
Jessica Park, Femi Johnson, James Conneron*

My first day in 1895 (As imagined by children in 1995)

"Quick up you get you'll be late" said Mama. "Oh Mama" I said but I got up and kissed Mama goodbye got my lunch and went. It was pouring as I trudged through the rough surfaces but I'm nearly there now. Ding ding ring ring "oh no the bell I'd better get a move on" I ran as fast as I could "oh no everyone's in and Miss Fox is taking the register". As I walked in I was scared stiff. "What's going to happen to me? I said to myself. "Laura what is your excuse this time?" Everyone was silent including me. "Well girl get on with it". I don't have one Mam" "Well I suggest you go and think about it in the corner with the dunces hat on". I slowly made my way into the corner. I suppose I should be grateful it wasn't the cane. I watched the others get out their slates, I cringed as I heard the screeching of the slate pencils on the slates. The next lesson was handwriting and the ink monitors gave out the inkwells and pens. Ding ding, at last lunch. I can't wait to tell Cara about the new jumper I got. I got out my orange and bread and told Cara about my new jumper. When we got back into class we had drill. 1,2,3,4 1,2,3,4 it was really boring doing drill but all I could do was wait until the next bell. Next lesson was the object lesson "the object this week children is a ruler" said Miss Fox. "Now repeat after me, This-is-a-ruler-it-helps-you-draw-straight-lines-it-also-helps-draw-straight-lines". Ding ding, Yes great, end of school can't wait to see Mama.

Laura Finnieston

The first day at school was a nightmare because I had to walk ten miles and I was late so I had the cane and also the dunces hat for bad writing. I was in standard 3 with the most ever strict teacher Mr Verystrict. His surname was true, he was very strict. The register was the first thing. Mr Verystrict had a low voice like my dad's voice which is very low. After the register we did Maths. I got all mine right so I got a sugar plum. I got my hands all sticky so I asked Mr Verystrict if I could wash my hands at the water pump in the school playground. He said I should be very quick. I got back just in time for the second lesson which was English. My hands were slippery from the water so I had terrible writing and that's why I got the dunces hat. Lunch was next. I had cold tea, a little bit of cheese, a slice of bread and a juicy apple. When I ate my apple I thought about all the things I did when I was not old enough to go to school. After lunch we did the school drill. I got really hot and tired. Finally we did an object lesson, it was an orange. Mr Verystrict said "This is an orange", and we repeated after him. By the end of the day I thought "what would the people of the future say"?

Bill Ferris

I woke up at 7 o'clock, (of course I didn't know it was 7 o'clock it was just a guess). I got into my clothes and tramped downstairs. I spread butter on my bread. "Thinner" said Ma, "we ain't made of money". I was going to the new school. Ma said I didn't need to go to school and it was a waste of money. I heard the school bell and ran faster and faster. The bell stopped ringing and I was still running. I arrived 5 minutes late. I crept into the schoolroom hoping that I wouldn't be noticed. The old Miss obviously knew I hadn't been here a minute ago. "You child" she said pointing one of her boney fingers at me. I was in for it, I might get the dunces cap or even the cane. "You child" she said again, "are LATE". "Yes Mam" I managed to say. "This time and only this time I will let you off, as you obviously are not familiar with the school rules. I couldn't believe it, she had let me off. "Thank you Mam" I said. "The first lesson is an object lesson. This is a camel". We repeated after her. We learnt all about this camel thing. Then we did maths. We learnt all our tables on slates. I shivered as I heard the screech of the slates. At lunchtime I ate my bread and apple. I thought, I wonder what this school will be like in 100 years time.

Laura Wootton

I was woken by the first toll of the school bell. As I walked to school I had to dive sideways to avoid being splashed by a passing carriage. At school we had a hand inspection and one boy was sent home because his hands were too dirty. Soon I heard the bell ringing for playtime. I won 5 marbles off my friend before lesson time. After drill we filed down the corridor to the hall for assembly. One boy whispered and was sent to the Head's office for 3 strokes of the cane. Our school hymn was 'All things bright and beautiful'. Three girls started to giggle and we had to sing the whole hymn again. Then we had a prayer and went back to our class to be dismissed.

Talli Haim

Thoughts of Today

When I started school my favourite thing was cooking. I hated work because sometimes I get it wrong.

Holly

On my first day I was very frightened till I saw Jenna- then Jenna saw Emma and I saw Emma and Emma was not nice.

Samantha

On my first day when I went into class everybody was crying but not me. When it was break time I fell over.

Clare

I like Mrs Parr because she has good ideas for games and PE. She lets us take the guinea pigs home and look after them. She does not shout very much and she is very very kind. She has also got very nice writing and lets us read lovely books sometimes.

Louise

I remember when I was in Mrs Parr's class and she always used to act really, really funny and she never used to get angry. She's one of the best. On my first day I wasn't very nervous because Mrs Kompfner told me she was very nice.

Sam

On my first day I remember I went to school in the afternoons only. Just before 12.00 Emma Smith, Matthew and me had a picnic in the park. Then we went into school and my first friend was Clare.

David

On my first day I remember going to Mrs Wooldridge's class and saying "Go away Mum". Then sitting down and playing see saw. I remember falling in the playground and Mrs Wooldridge coming and giving me a big hug. I was so proud when I got my first set of words. She is like a big mother to us.

Bethan

On my first visit I remember walking in the massive door with David Webb and my Mum. Then our Mums said bye and me and David turned round and went No!

Mark

Mrs Fowler is about the kindest Head Teacher I have been with. She looks after you when you are down in the dumps. She is very busy in the office and telling people to be good.

Anon.

I remember when I was in class 1 and I used to be scared of Mrs Fowler because someone told me that if you were naughty you would have to go outside her office.

Emma

I remember when I was in Mrs Wooldridge's class when I was having an argument with Cara. I was upsetting her by saying I have a pet lion and she went and told the teacher and I got told off. On my first day I felt very scared after going to play school but I got used to it.

Amy

I remember being sad because my brother was leaving school and wondering what it would be like with just my sister. I remember hating maths but loved to do art. I loved playing on the computer or listening to the cassette player in Mrs Highams class.

Suzannah

Thoughts of Today cont. . . .

I remember being scared of Mrs Hawkins because she shouted a lot but she is really nice once you get to know her. At Christmas she buys everyone sweets and pencils. She even buys turkeys for Christmas school dinners. When we had measles jabs she bought us a box of roses. I don't know why at first I didn't like her. Talli

I remember when I got my first sticker for Maths one day because I was working very hard with my friend Lizzie. She got one too and we put them on our trays. I like Mrs Jeffery a lot. She is a very kind teacher to me. Laura

I remember coming in the gate and my friends Charlotte, Laura and Elizabeth crowding round me greeting me because we knew each other from nursery. When I got in the gate they were skipping round me telling me how fun it is at school and filling my head with excitement. Clare

I remember when I was in Class 1 I told my friends that my name was Kara Krisstle Diamond Cara

I remember when Alex said to Mrs Wooldridge I feel sick and he was sick. In the future I think the school will change because there might be a different scheme and the school may be boring Naomi

Mrs Wooldridge is my best teacher because when I first started this school she said your mummy is having a cup of tea so you are staying here for today so don't worry dear. Then I calmed down. Mrs Wooldridge is nice. Abigail

Mr Dust is our Deputy Head Teacher. He is very nice. He likes to teach technology and science and does rugby with us. He is a newish teacher to our school. Clay

Mr Dust can be quite strict when we don't listen but he can be nice at times, as long as we don't chat. We play rugby with him on Thursdays and he also plays tennis. Matthew

Mrs Kompfner taught us in class 3. She was very helpful and explained things well. She chose good stories to read to us. I was very sad to leave her class but I had a nice teacher in class 4. Laura

I am enjoying it in class 4, Mr Allen's class. Mr Allen is always funny. He tells you what book to read when you need a new one and they are usually good and funny. One of the best books he has given me is one funny one called Four Legged Ghosts. Nicholas

Thoughts of Today cont. . . .

Mrs Highams is a nice and caring teacher. If you have a problem with your work she just says that's all right. When I went to Ufton Court she was nice and always gave us millions of sheets to do. She is funny sometimes. I like Mrs Highams because when we finished we could go on the computer. Tony

Mr Allen is a football teacher and he teaches class 4. If you don't behave yourself he'll kick you out the door. We call our team St. Mary's and we've got the best football coach indeed. We have two teams in school, Team A and Team B. Bill

Mrs Kompfner is a strict teacher but sometimes she is funny too. I always laugh when she said "You and I are going to fall out". I like it when we had a quiz. Sometimes our team wins. Oliver

Mrs Kompfner is a fun teacher. I enjoyed being in her class because she teaches enjoyable subjects like design technology. She makes her lessons exciting and I think she is a good teacher. Laurie

I like Mrs Jeffery because I find she explains things well. She also arranges good trips for us. Mrs Jeffery is also the music teacher. We have fun music lessons with her. Mrs Jeffery writes neatly on the white board although the pens always run out. Kara

When I went to Ufton Court with Mrs Highams, I was in the middle of unpacking, when I heard the fire bell. Clare, Lizzie, Emma and I forgot all about what we had been told. We went with the wrong group! When we next saw Mrs Highams, she kept telling us that we went in the wrong group. As if we didn't know! But Mrs Highams is very nice. Charlotte

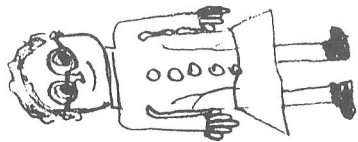
IN THE FUTURE

In the future I think that history lessons will be about Elizabeth II and science will be about time warps. English is on computers and a teleportsaishon booth will be put in the playground. Tommy

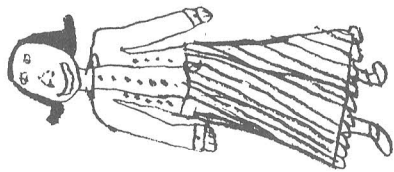
In the future I think they will make it illegal to tell children off because they made it illegal to hit children in Victorian times. Laurie

There will be different teachers and Headteacher and different playground. Also no hard work and no homework and also new classes. Matthew

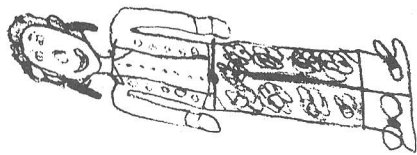
I think in the future everybody in the school will come in and copy hard work off the board without any teacher. If you were doing something naughty you would have to do twice as much work at playtime Tony



Mrs. Woodbridge



Mrs. Highams



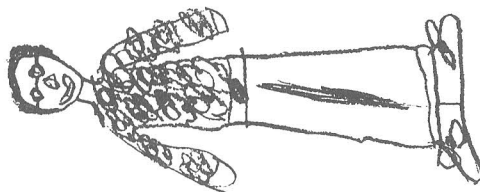
Mrs. Kempfner



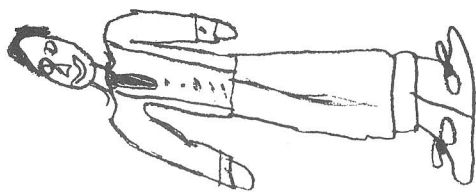
Mrs. Barr



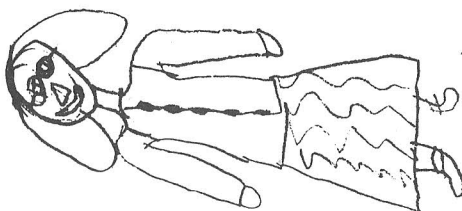
Mr. Allen



Mrs. Jeffery



Mr. Dust



Mrs. Fowler



by Charlotte
age 9

Mrs. Hawkins (our dinner lady)

I remember when I was lining up for lunch and Mrs. Hawkins was wearing a shirt that had the names of towns and countrys on. Laura and I kept reciting all the names.

Mrs. Hawkins is very sunny when you get to know her, but at first some people are afraid of her, even though she is very, very kind.

AUXILIARY STAFF

No school could ever thrive without its auxiliary staff and St. Mary's is no exception. Pictured here are our dedicated staff and we have no hesitation in thanking them for keeping up the high standards of the school in the areas they serve.



Left to Right:- Betty Langley, Lynn Frost, Claire Dickerson, Brenda Sworn, Jacky Le Page, Eric Clements, Joan Zerilli, Sonia Simmons, Audrey Hawkins



Clerical Staff and Teaching Assistants

Standing:- Sue Barber, Irene Bidwell, Ann James, Cheryl Brown
Seated:- Sandy Champion, Nina Vina, Audrey Clements

Where are they now?

Harold Keeping

Mr Keeping was appointed Headteacher in September 1971 and retired in 1979. He went on to work for the civil engineering company, Mowlem, until his wife also retired from teaching. They then returned to their original locality in Dorset. They have one son, Simon, who lives and works in London.

Peter Brooks

Mr Brooks was appointed Headteacher in August 1980 and left St. Mary's in December 1993 following his appointment at Lowbrook School in Maidenhead. He has since moved on to Courthouse Junior School, also in Maidenhead. His wife is also a teacher and they have two children aged 17 and 14 years.

In the picture below, Mr Brooks can be seen canvassing with some of his pupils for better road safety.

Robert Taylor

Mr Taylor moved from St. Mary's to Broughton Monchelsea School, near Maidstone, in January 1989, where he is still the Headteacher. His wife is also a teacher and they have two sons and one daughter. Mr Taylor has a love for old schools, Broughton Monchelsea School was opened in 1863.



Debra and Sandra Clements

My sister, Sandra and I attended Winkfield St. Mary's between 1964 and 1972. Happy memories of our schooldays include Headmaster, Mr Kaynes, Deputy Heads Mr Sherville, Mr Sutcliffe and Mr Baker, along with Mrs Ellam, Mrs Paton, Mrs Dale, Mrs Limbert and Mrs Sawyer. One always remembers the Christmas plays and sports days as highlights. In our early years at the school the swimming pool was built and opened; a popular addition to our school life - in the summer! The winter months were always interesting, as this was when the children from Billy Smarts Circus would attend the school, bringing added colour and excitement.

We both still live locally, Sandra in North Ascot and myself in Binfield. Sandra became Mrs Chapman in 1979 and her two children Joanne and Nicholas have both attended the school. Sandra now works as a secretary for the East Berks Motor Trade Consortium at Windsor College and for the last 11 years I have worked as the Administrative Officer of a Trade Association, the Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association, based in Chippenham.

Mrs Mary Barnett

Mrs Barnett taught mainly class 3, sometimes a mixture of infants and junior children, and ran a very successful netball team.

She moved to North Devon soon after taking early retirement in 1989 and happily lives there with her husband Joe and daughter Sally. However, she does miss the contact she had with the children of St. Mary's.

Mary fills her time with college courses, long walks, swimming and delivering 'meals on wheels' to elderly residents in her neighbourhood. When she visits her son in London she takes the opportunity to go to the theatre.

Mr and Mrs Barnett often travel back to Berkshire to visit three other daughters and six grandchildren.



Mrs Rachel Kompfner and Mrs Joyce Shephard

Two of our Lady Governors not present in the group photograph on page 13



New classrooms erected in 1994

THE CAST OF 1994/95

Teachers

Mrs Jenny Fowler, Headteacher
Mr Michael Dust, Deputy Headteacher
Mr Stuart Allen, Mrs Nicola Parr
Mrs June Highams, Mrs Sue Jeffery
Mrs Rachel Kompfner, Mrs Jill Wooldridge

Clerical Staff

Mrs Irene Bidwell, Mrs Cheryl Brown

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Audrey Clements, Mrs Ann James, Mrs Nina Viner
Mrs Sue Barber, Mrs Sandy Champion

Kitchen Staff

Mrs Betty Langley, Mrs Joan Zerilli

Lunch Controllers

Mrs Audrey Hawkins, Mrs Jacky Le Page
Mrs Sonia Simmonds, Mrs Lynn Frost
Miss Brenda Sworn

Cleaner in Charge

Mrs Audrey Hawkins

Cleaners

Mrs Jacky Le Page, Miss Claire Dickerson

Handyman

Mr Eric Clements

Governors

Mr Brian Cooley, Chairman
Mr Don Ingham, Vice Chairman
Mr David Bazely, Rev Simon Baynes
Mr Michael Colborn, Dr Ray Elliott
Mrs Maggie Ferris, Mrs Jenny Fowler
Mrs Rachel Kompfner, Mrs Angela Michie
Mrs Joyce Shephard, Mr Peter Wooldridge
Mrs Irene Bidwell, Clerk & Finance Officer

HEADTEACHERS

Winkfield Row Infants School

Miss R. A. Batcheldor	January 1873 - December 1873
Mary Tomline	June 1874 - December 1874
Mary Garrish	March 1875 - December 1876
M. A. Quincey	January 1877 - January 1882
S. E. Tombs	February 1882 - March 1885
M. Lowing	April 1885 - July 1895
Miss A Jackson	October 1895 - July 1896
Henry Wheeler	
James Hunt	

Winkfield Voluntary School (5th May 1896 - 3rd April 1906)

Winkfield St. Mary's C E Primary School (4th April 1906)

J. C. Tipper	September 1895 - August 1916
Carrie Harris	September 1916 - January 1919
J. C. Tipper	January 1919 - December 1921
Thomas Kent	February 1922 - July 1927
Carrie Harris	August 1927 - September 1945
Muriel Young	October 1945 - October 1947
C. W. Kaynes	November 1947 - August 1971
H. C. Keeping	September 1971 - October 1979
Peter Brooks	August 1980 - December 1983
Robert Taylor	April 1984 - December 1988
Mrs Jenny Fowler	January 1989 - to date

CONCLUSION

Having read this far, I am sure you will have found as indeed I have, many interesting details of St. Mary's School history.

It is more than just a school record, it is a fascinating insight into the local history of this part of Berkshire over the last one hundred years.

The school's roots are deeply buried in the ethos of the good village school. Yet having said this, the school has adapted to modern educational requirements and practises without losing any of the personal care, consideration and commitment to each individual pupil.

It is interesting to note that four school heads in the pre 1896 era spent twelve months or less at the school whereas from 1947 we see a more stable picture. This long service factor is widely reflected in all the staff who serve the school very well indeed.

I am confident that in another one hundred years, this book will be prized as a valuable local reference document. I am even more confident that St. Mary's School will still be turning out well educated, well balanced, cheerful and indeed happy pupils.

Brian Cooley
Chairman of the Governors